(c) and (d). The steps taken to increase to the production of Coking coal are as under:-

i) Improvement of production and productivity of existing mines;

ii) Improvement in the Performance of coal washeries;

iii) Close monitoring of on-going projcets;

iv) Increasing the availability of metallurgical variety of coking coal by washing some of the coking coals which are not being washed at present.

The Production of coking coal during the year 89-90 and 90-91 was 44.43 million tonnes and 44.26 million tonnes. Of these, the production of metallurgical grade coal by Coal India ltd., was 20.10 million tonnes and 19.89 million tonnes during the year 89-90 and 90-91 respectively.

Inter-State Water Disputes

3485. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be please to state:

(a) the details of inter-State water disputes pending settlement;

(b the steps taken or proposed to be taken to resolve those disputes; and

(c) whether there are regional imbalances in sharing of water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Under the provisions of the inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, two disputes, namely, sharing of surplus Ravi and Beas waters and sharing of Cauvery waters have been referred to the Tribunals in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively. The Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal has given its Report in January, 1987;; and Government of India and party States have made further reference as envisaged under the Act to seek explanation/guidance of the Tribunal on its report. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an order on 25.6.1991 granting interim relief to Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. As regards the proposal from Madhya pradesh for consideration of the questions associated with Mahi-Bajajsagar under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, a preliminary inter-State meeting was held on February 6, 1991.

In addition, there are some inter-State issues pertaining to matters such as interpretation of earlier agreements and sharing of surplus waters viz. sharing of Yamuna water (up to Okhla), interpretation of Bansagar Agreement on Sone waters, interpretation of Mahi waters Agreement between Rajasthan and Gujarat. For amicable settlement of inter-State issues in water resources between the States, a Standing Committee of the National Water Resources Council has been constituted in April, 1990. The standing Committee held one meeting in September, 1990 to resolve issues concected with sharing of Yamuna waters (upto Okhla).

(c) Due to variability of rainfall over the Indian subcontinent, the pattern of flow in different rivers is variable. The sharing of water between the States of Inter-State river basin is normally achieved through mutual understanding/agreements. For alliviating the difficulties of water short areas, the Centre has evolved a national perspective of water resources development; comprising of two components, namely Peninsular river development component and Himalayan river development component. To firm up these proposals, Government of India in 1982, set up National Water Development Agency.